

May 24, 2023

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1139 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1129 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adrian Smith  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Trade  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1139 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Trade  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1129 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman J. Smith, Ranking Member Neal, Chairman A. Smith, and Ranking Member Blumenauer:

Our organizations respectfully request Committee sign off for House consideration – under suspension of the rules as a stand-alone bill – the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act (S. 758), as passed by the Senate on March 9, 2023.

The legislation addresses a specific and unique issue and helps protect the sensitive personal data of servicemembers, federal employees, private sector workers, and families who are returning to the United States after living abroad. S. 758 was introduced on a bipartisan basis by Senators Daines, Peters, Stabenow, and Marshall and passed the Senate by voice vote. It has a bipartisan House companion (H.R. 1568) introduced by Representatives Waltz and Pascrell. The legislation is identical to the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act (115th - H.R. 4403), which in 2018 the Ways & Means Committee reported out by voice vote, followed by House passage under the suspension calendar. The Congressional Budget Office and Joint Tax Committee have determined a “zero” score for the legislation.

Each year, the U.S. military, federal departments, and private sector organizations relocate tens of thousands of Americans back home to the U.S. after posting overseas. Other Americans return home after time abroad for personal reasons. When shipping their personal household goods to the U.S., these individuals must include elements of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) on shipping forms which are made part of vessel manifests. The PII often contains Social Security numbers, Passport numbers, home addresses, and other sensitive data.

Currently U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is required to make all commercial information from vessel manifests – often capturing the sensitive PII of returning American citizens – available to data brokers who package and resell this data throughout their subscriber network. Without concrete action to protect the PII, normally held under strict security by the U.S. Government, these elements can be exposed, placing Americans at risk of identity theft, financial fraud, and other abuses of their data.

The Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act helps protect Americans from this risk by ensuring PII is removed from manifests prior to CBP providing and selling the commercial manifest information to data brokers. While it does not amend other provisions of the Tariff Act or in any other way modify Customs' authorities or trade policy, it does remove the U.S. Government from making sensitive PII of servicemembers and other Americans available to potential criminals as citizens move back home to the United States.

Given the focused nature of this legislation and increase in identity theft crimes in recent years, we urge the Committee to agree to direct House consideration of the Senate-passed version of the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act (S. 758) as a stand-alone bill under suspension of the rules.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Trucking Associations  
International Association of Movers  
Military Officers Association of America  
Senior Executives Association  
Worldwide ERC®